

AGENDA ITEM 8: **Bay Delta Conservation Plan**

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Erik Vink; BDCP panel

Requested Action: **Receive information and provide direction to DPC staff to prepare final BDCP comments**

Background: The Delta Protection Commission has weighed in on the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan on several occasions, including a January 2013 vote requesting consideration of a portfolio-based conceptual alternative (and a follow-up letter to Secretaries Salazar and Laird – see attached) and a May 2013 vote to oppose the Bay Delta Conservation Plan as proposed at that time (and a follow-up letter to Governor Brown – see attached).

Since the public release of the BDCP EIS/EIR documents, DPC staff has been reviewing aspects of the Plan and the environmental documents to determine areas of inconsistency with the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP). Our intention is to prepare a set of comments for consideration and approval by the Commission at its May 22 meeting (Plan and EIS/EIR comments are due June 13).

At this time, DPC staff are working to develop a matrix of BDCP impacts to assist us in drafting the Commission's comment letter. The matrix will focus in on several areas: impacts to Delta communities, agriculture and recreation.

- **Delta community impacts**, such as exposure of residents and visitors to construction noise at all hours; truck traffic resulting in unacceptable level-of-service and unacceptable pavement conditions; impact of road relocations on local farm and resident traffic; increase in safety hazards; aesthetic and visual impacts to communities near intake and tunnel construction; new sources of light/glare that will adversely affect views in the area, and; effects on regional/local utilities.
- **Delta agriculture impacts**, such as conversion of farmland for tunnel construction and conservation measures, especially tidal marsh restoration; seepage impacts from restoration of nearby properties; well operation impacts and altering of local groundwater levels from tunnel-alignment dewatering, and; water quality impacts from increased salinity.
- **Delta recreation impacts**, such as reduction of boating opportunities in vicinity of riverside construction and barge traffic; impacts to marinas from reduced boat traffic; reduction in Delta day visitors due to road relocation and avoidance of truck traffic, and; impact on Delta park facilities from tunnel construction and conservation measures.

It would be very possible to expand this matrix substantially; the draft BDCP has substantial and numerous deleterious impacts on Delta residents and communities. However, our intention is to focus in on the most significant of these impacts, especially as they relate to residents and communities. BDCP may have benefit to the water export system and arguably to the restoration of Delta natural habitats, but it is disastrous for the people who live, work and recreate in the Delta.

To assist with the Commission's discussion about the scope of the comment letter, we have asked several Delta leaders with substantial involvement in reviewing the BDCP and EIS/EIR to offer their comments on BDCP impacts in the Delta and suggestions for DPC's comment letter. They are:

Osha Meserve (Local Agencies of the North Delta)

Marguerite Patil (Contra Costa Water District)

Jane Wagner-Tyack (Restore the Delta)

Dante Nomellini (Central Delta Water Agency)